

FAVORS NATIONAL CONTROL OF COAL MINES AND ROADS

Congressman John J. Jenkins, the chairman of the house judiciary committee, who introduced the resolution favoring government seizure of the coal mines and coal railroads, represents the Tenth district of Wisconsin, and has been continuously a member of congress since 1895. He lives at Chippewa Falls, Wis., and was a former county judge. He has been a Republican since the civil war.

One of the most radical propositions yet made to settle the coal problem was offered in the house of representatives Jan. 14, and it came from a source which seemed to entitle it to instant recognition. Representative Jenkins of Wisconsin, who is no tyro in legislation, but who, on the contrary, is chairman of the judiciary committee of the house, and who from that fact is presumed to be a good constitutional lawyer, offered a resolution which provides in brief that the gov-

ernment should seize and operate not only the coal mines but the transportation companies which carry the product, and in this way distribute coal to the people.

Such a proposition coming from an obscure member of the house would not have attracted any more attention than dozens of others quite as radical. But a bill of this kind offered by the chairman of the judiciary committee acted upon the members of the house like a dash of cold water, and seemed to bring them to a realization of the fact that the country has reached a condition where ordinary constitutional methods must be succeeded by extraordinary and almost socialistic expedients.

Mr. Jenkins did not offer his resolution in an idle moment, but after carefully thinking it out. He is undoubtedly a good lawyer, and his position at the head of the great committee which is even now formulating the anti-trust legislation entitles him to more than the usual credit for his actions.

That his proposition is radical in the extreme everyone must concede, but it is also apparent that nothing but the presence of a great crisis could have induced him to father such a proposition. Mr. Jenkins has previously gone on record as asserting that the government could not regulate the trusts without a constitutional amendment.

Not only does Mr. Jenkins assume complete responsibility for his actions, but he justifies them by the gravity of the crisis which the country is now facing. He does not propose to supply the country with free coal, but he does believe that the time has come when, to prevent widespread famine and hardship, it has become necessary for the United States government as an act of supreme sovereignty to give the people an opportunity to provide themselves with coal at a fair price.

What he is after is merely to use the power of the national government to see that all the coal possible to be mined is mined, and thereupon also to see that it is distributed on an equitable basis to all sections and all classes in the country.

"For some time we have been calling attention to a want of power on the part of the federal government to

deal with the many perplexing questions confronting our people," said Representative Jenkins, in discussing his proposition. "By this resolution I am calling attention to a power that I believe exists and should be developed. It is one of the sovereign inherent rights of the government. The situation is not as favorable for the exercise of that power as during last September, but conditions are much worse. Coal is a necessary of life. The people cannot obtain it and are suffering greatly for the want of it. Therefore, it is within the power of congress in such a case to declare that an exigency has arisen for the exercise of the power of eminent domain, and this declaration is not open to inquiry by the courts.

"It is not the price of coal that creates the exigency, but the fact that the people cannot obtain it, and that conditions are growing worse daily. Hence, it becomes the duty of the gov-



Horticultural Products for 1902.

It is estimated that the apple crop of 1902 is about double that of 1901, but the rainy season impaired the keeping quality of fruit in some portions of the country, notably New York, where large amounts were forced onto the market early in December and sold as low as 15 cents per cwt. The best Jonathans, which command the highest market price, were grown in Missouri and Illinois. These are now bringing \$6.50 per barrel, against \$2.50 to \$3.00 for choice greenings. Irrigation grown apples from Colorado and Idaho, which have been marketed in bushel boxes, were of the finest quality and commanded top prices. The entry of Armour & Co. and other packing firms into the fruit trade on a big scale has frightened out some of the smaller dealers. The trade in apples and other fruits is being revolutionized in other ways. Cold storage houses have been largely erected in apple districts and it is believed that stocks in storage at this time are larger than ever before. Combinations among growers and better methods of packing and marketing favor shipments direct from the growing to the consuming point and the trade of Chicago, which has been a distributing center, has suffered in consequence. The practice of selling crops in bulk on the trees for a cash figure to dealers who pack and market them, appears to be growing. Consignments to commission dealers as a rule are of inferior quality, and local commission men have discovered the necessity of sending buyers into the orchard districts early in the season to bid against buyers from other places. This was particularly noticeable this season in the peach trade, large shipments being made direct from producing points to places heretofore supplied by Chicago merchants.

The melon trade of Chicago, which was very heavy, has demonstrated that the Gem melon of Illinois and Michigan can not hold its own with its finer flavored rival, the Rocky Ford cantaloup of Colorado. Illinois and Michigan crops were large but prices were far below those of former years. The watermelon crops of Illinois and Indiana were of fine quality and the yield large. Prices opened at \$78 to \$80 per car, receding as low as \$25 before the close of the season. The first melons of the season from Tyler, Texas, brought \$300 per car.

The grape crop was light and disappointing, particularly in New York, where the yield was not more than half the usual average. High prices were maintained throughout the season and wine makers had such difficulty in securing stocks that the vintage of 1902 will be about 50 per cent short.

The cranberry crop was also short about 50 per cent, and the keeping quality of the fruit impaired by wet weather. Prices at this time, (\$8.50 to \$9.00 per barrel) are higher by a dollar per barrel than one year ago.

Reports indicate that the yield of late potatoes in eastern states was light, but Wisconsin and Michigan growers had good crops which they sold at 30 to 40 cents per bushel. Chicago quotations at the close of the year were 40 to 50 cents in carload lots.

Feeding Test with Sugar Beet Pulp.

The Michigan station has recently concluded a feeding test to ascertain the value of beet pulp for milk cows. Two lots of four cows each were fed, and the feeding was divided into two periods of six weeks each. It was figured from the results obtained from this test that the 9,463 pounds of beet pulp was only equal to 268 pounds of hay, 172 pounds of bran and 93 pounds of corn meal. There was an increase of 415 pounds in the milk supply when pulp was fed, but there was no increase in the yield of butter fat obtained. This test does not show up very favorably for sugar beet pulp. It can be fed profitably only when very cheaply obtained.

Selection of Sows.

H. P. West: A good start is half the battle. A good start in pig raising means a bunch of good healthy sows from families noted for large litters. In the selection of these sows choose whatever breed your fancy may dictate. I prefer mature animals. Look well to constitutional vigor. They should have good length of body, broad backs, deep sides and be not too short-legged. Twelve good well-developed tests should be among the requisites. A sow should be broad between the eyes; this denotes hog intelligence, and a hog with such a face will generally be of good disposition, which should be cultivated at all times.

Ask a conceited man a question and he will never say, "I don't know."



Notes of Agricultural Advance.

Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute has introduced the teaching of agriculture into all its courses, necessitating the employing of two assistant instructors in agriculture.

During the past summer there were set out on the grounds of the Tuskegee Station in Alabama 300 mulberry trees, with a view to making experiments in silk culture in the future.

Prof. H. M. Cottrell, formerly director of the Kansas Experiment station, is now professor of agriculture in Ruskin College, located at Trenton, Missouri. This college is the educational institution of a large co-operative movement that has obtained considerable prestige in Kansas, Missouri and adjacent states.

The Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture has had an agent in Europe studying the sand-binding grasses and their management in Holland, Belgium, France and Germany. This work is likely to have very important results on the utilization of millions of acres of drifting sand along our seacoasts, lakes and rivers.

The North Carolina State Board of Agriculture is doing some work of a very valuable kind. It has established three experiment farms in different parts of the state, two on the light soils along the coast, and one on the red Piedmont clay. Experiments are being carried on to test fertilizers, cultural methods, rotations, and varieties of corn, cotton and peanuts. Some of the work is co-operative. This work is entirely distinct from that of the state experiment station at Raleigh or of the horticultural experiment station at Southern Pines.

At the New Mexico Station the interest in the irrigation experiments continue. One good result of the work of the station has been the discovery of the fact that in the Mesilla Valley at least the supply of underground water is very much larger than was considered possible. This water is reached at a depth of only 20 feet in some cases, and is well adapted to irrigation purposes. Using steam made by the use of wood it was found that land could be irrigated at an expense of about 58 cents per acre. This was the case, too, when the water had to be raised 48 feet. A series of tests with various pumps under varying conditions and with a variety of fuel is in progress.

Importance of Good Seed Corn.

There are nine and a quarter millions of acres in corn in this state. By adding five bushels per acre to the yield of the Iowa cornfields it means an addition to the profits of the Iowa farmers of over \$20,000,000 every year. An important factor in the improvement of corn is good seed corn. Good seed is secured only by careful and intelligent selection. The unfavorable conditions for the corn crop this fall, resulting from the early frosts in many portions of Iowa, will make necessary unusual care in the selection of seed corn for next year's crop. Successful breeders agree that the best seed corn is that which possesses the greatest vitality or germinating power, and which will yield the most corn per acre and of the best quality, and therefore prove the most profitable to grow. Good seed corn will increase the yield per acre five to twenty bushels. Hence the importance this year of taking unusual care in selecting and storing the seed corn which is to be used next spring in the fields of Iowa.—Prof. P. G. Holden.

Value of High-Bred Corn.

A grower of high quality corn gives the following reasons why such corn will be most valuable for the farmer to raise: Like produces like. Offspring partakes of physical and chemical characteristics of both parents. Prepotency is increased by breeding. Purity can be maintained by selecting for seed only ears that are true to type and that have been grown in an isolated position. High oil corn finishes beef and pork more rapidly than ordinary corn, and fewer bushels of corn are required to do the same work. Oil is the most valuable by-product of the glucose factory, and in time a premium will be paid on high-oil corn. High protein makes corn a balanced ration for growing cattle. A corn high in both oil and protein is the ideal feeding corn. The yield of high bred corn is from 10 to 40 per cent greater than that of ordinary corn. In pedigree corn the per cent of barren stalks is reduced to the minimum, while the per cent of ears is raised to the maximum. One hundred bushels of high bred corn have been produced where ordinary corn yielded sixty bushels.



Ignorant Poultry Raisers Fail.

John H. Robinson: When one undertakes poultry keeping the chances are against his success. But, unfortunately, nearly every beginner thinks himself or herself the talented and favored or exceptionally industrious person who is sure to succeed, and therefore neglects to take the necessary precautions to avoid failure. With rare exceptions those engaging in poultry keeping on any considerable scale begin without any adequate practical knowledge of the conditions, requirements and methods of the business. If they happen to have abundant capital to carry on the business until they have learned in the costly school of experience what they ought to have known before investing a dollar, they must finally make a success of it, but the greater part of the original investment and also of the expenses for several years may have to be charged off to cost of acquiring experience. The most serious cases are those of people with limited means who go into poultry keeping, expecting it to give them their living almost from the start. As far as my observation goes the greater number of persons who once become deeply interested in poultry, and decide to venture into it will take bad advice in preference to good every time. I suppose this is because the bad advice is more in line with their hopes and wishes. The daily care of poultry is neither as easy as some think it, nor as hard as others make it. It is easy when you know how, and it is neither a long nor a difficult task to know how. There is a great difference between doing work well and doing it profitably. Permanent success in any line of work depends, as a rule, upon doing it both well and profitably.

How I Get Winter Eggs.

From Farmers' Review: Our experience in getting winter eggs has only been with Buffs and Barred Rocks. The first thing is to have pure-bred stock, as no definite result can be expected from miscellaneous crosses. For Barred Rocks the chicks should be hatched the last two weeks of March, or the first half of April, but the Buff Rocks may be hatched as late as the middle of May. Then care should be taken to keep them growing from the time they leave the shell. Above all, keep them free from lice. When the time arrives for placing the stock in winterquarters, cull out all the drones, and those inclined to take on fat too readily, for a lazy hen like a lazy poultryman is not a success. Do not crowd the stock. Fifteen to twenty hens are enough in one pen. See that the house is warm. Keep the floor covered about six inches deep with straw or some other litter. This should be renewed about once a week or often enough to keep the house cleanly. For our morning feed we use the Andrews prepared food, made by a company at Macon, Ill. The foundation of this feed is ground oats and corn, with some secret ingredients. This is a great egg producer. We mix this feed with milk, boiled vegetables, meat scraps, blood meal or any table scraps. We give what will be eaten up in fifteen to twenty minutes. We then scatter wheat in the litter, just enough to keep them busy till supper time. We then give them a good feed of corn. In real, cold weather this should be warmed. Give plenty of milk and fresh water. For an appetizer feed any kind of vegetables. Last but not least, do not forget the grit and the dusting place.—A. A. Anderson, Macon County, Ill.

The Egg and Poultry Trade of 1902.

Since April when storage eggs sold as low as 14½ cents per dozen, prices have been good and well sustained. Sixteen cents was freely paid in May and the early part of June. Then there was a drop of half a cent, but later a revival and steady advance until now, at the close of the year, fresh eggs are bringing 26 cents and storage eggs 19½ cents. Fewer eggs have been placed in cold storage than in 1901.

The feature of the poultry season has been the scarcity of fowls and high prices realized, in some cases almost double those of 1901. A cold wet summer interfered with the rearing of young turkeys and not more than 60 per cent of the usual crop was grown. At the close of the year dressed turkeys at wholesale were bringing 17½ to 18 cents, against 9 to 10 cents in 1901, and dressed chickens 10 to 11 cents, against 7½ to 8 cent one year ago. The holiday trade made such heavy drafts on country reserves that light supplies are anticipated, for the balance of the winter.

Methods of farm work are undergoing great changes every year. The last ten years has seen a very great overturning of some of the old ideals.



CONGRESSMAN JOHN J. JENKINS, OF WISCONSIN